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July 1998

TERRORISM REVIEW

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**The FARC Rounds Out Terrorist Arsenal with Improvised
Explosive Devices**

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William Friedlan, DIA

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) continues to employ improvised explosive devices (IEDs) against a variety of targets as part of its terrorist and insurgent activities. The FARC has access to a ready supply of explosives and the expertise necessary to construct a several types of IEDs. Although Colombian Army and National Police personnel are the primary targets for FARC bombings, political candidates, the electric power infrastructure, and the public transportation system also have been hit. In addition, the FARC has engaged in low-level bombings of US commercial facilities, including the partially US-owned Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline. The terrorist threat to US interests from the FARC could increase in the coming months if the group believes that US support to Colombian counterdrug operations is having a serious impact on its narcotics-related revenues and insurgent operations.

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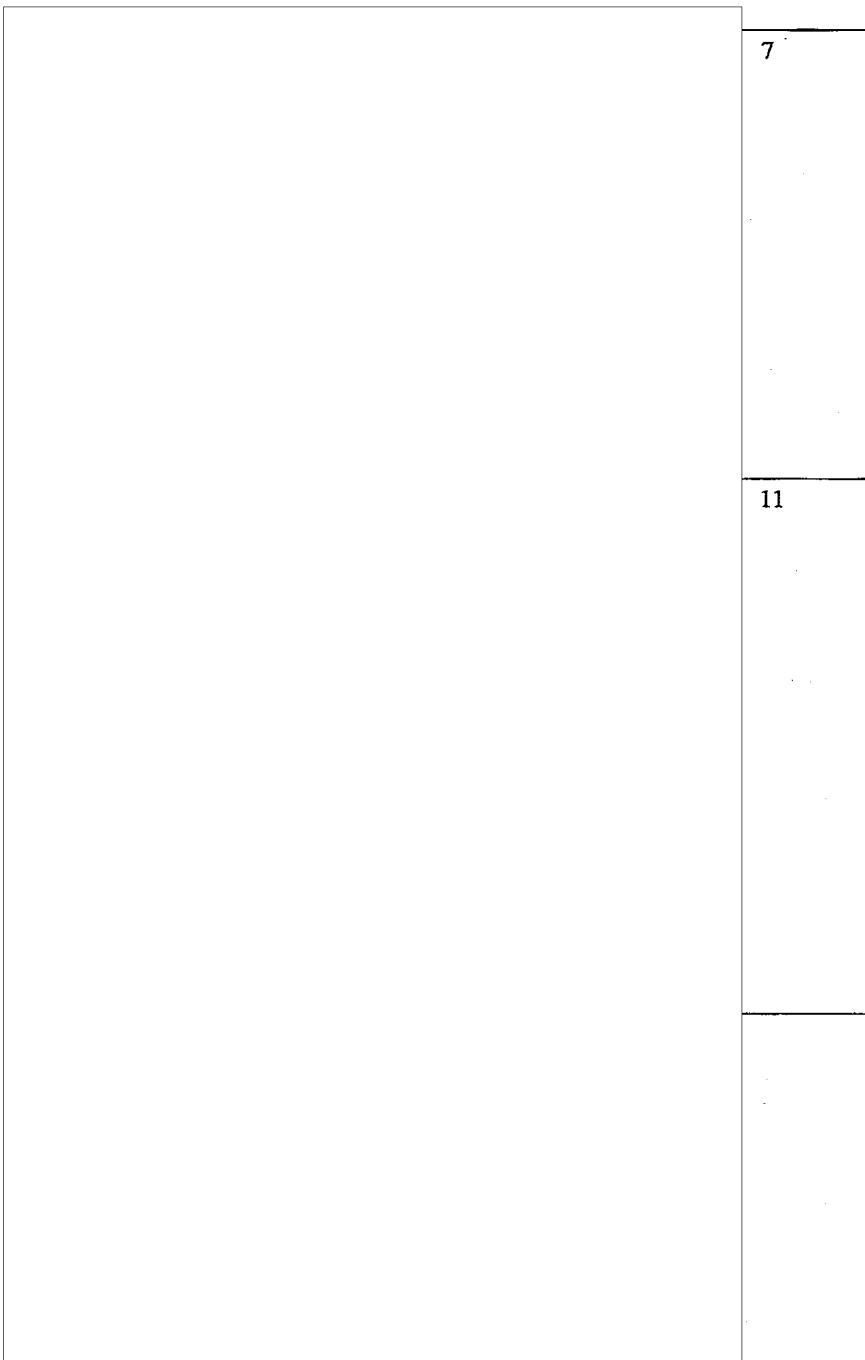
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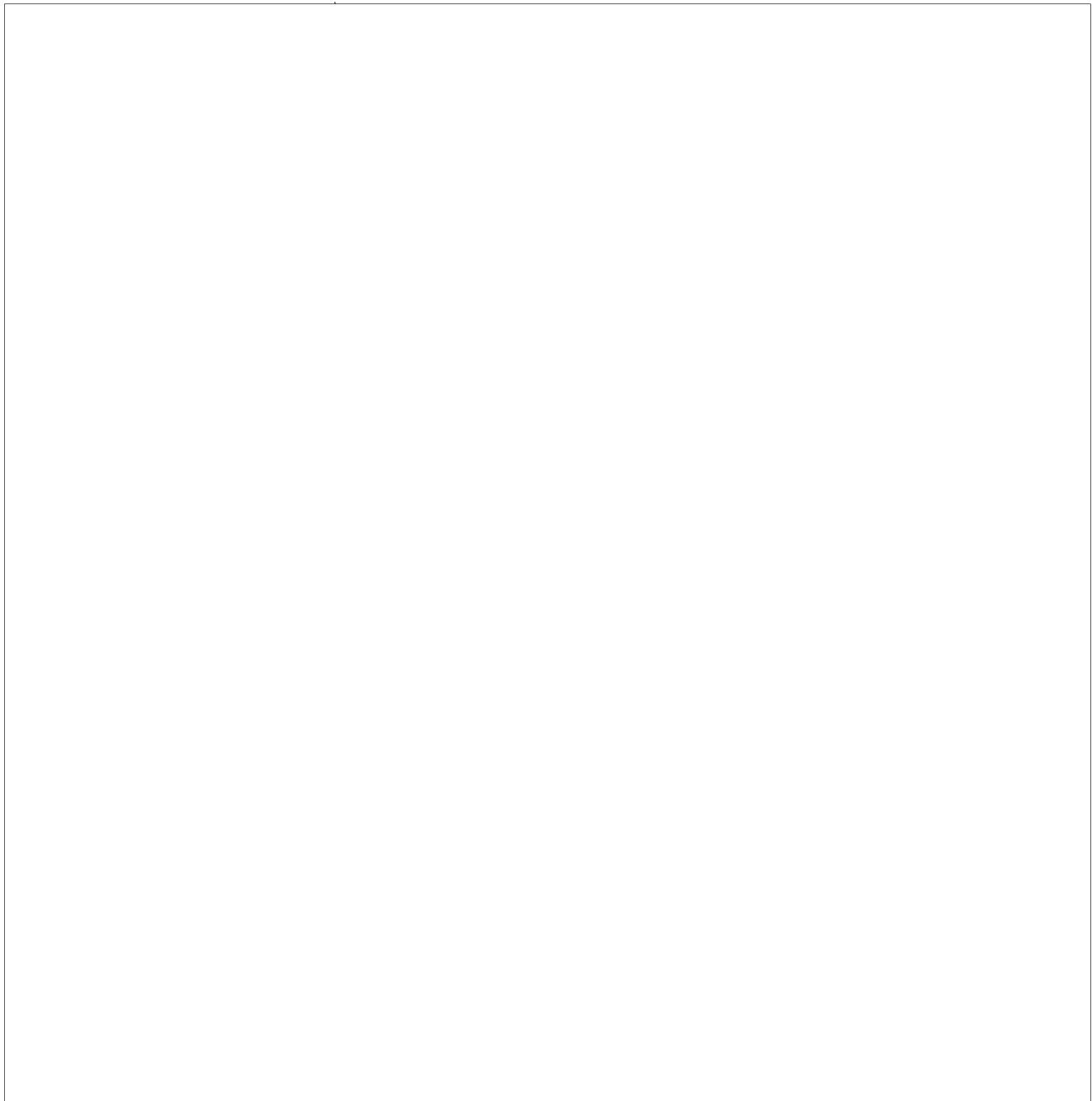
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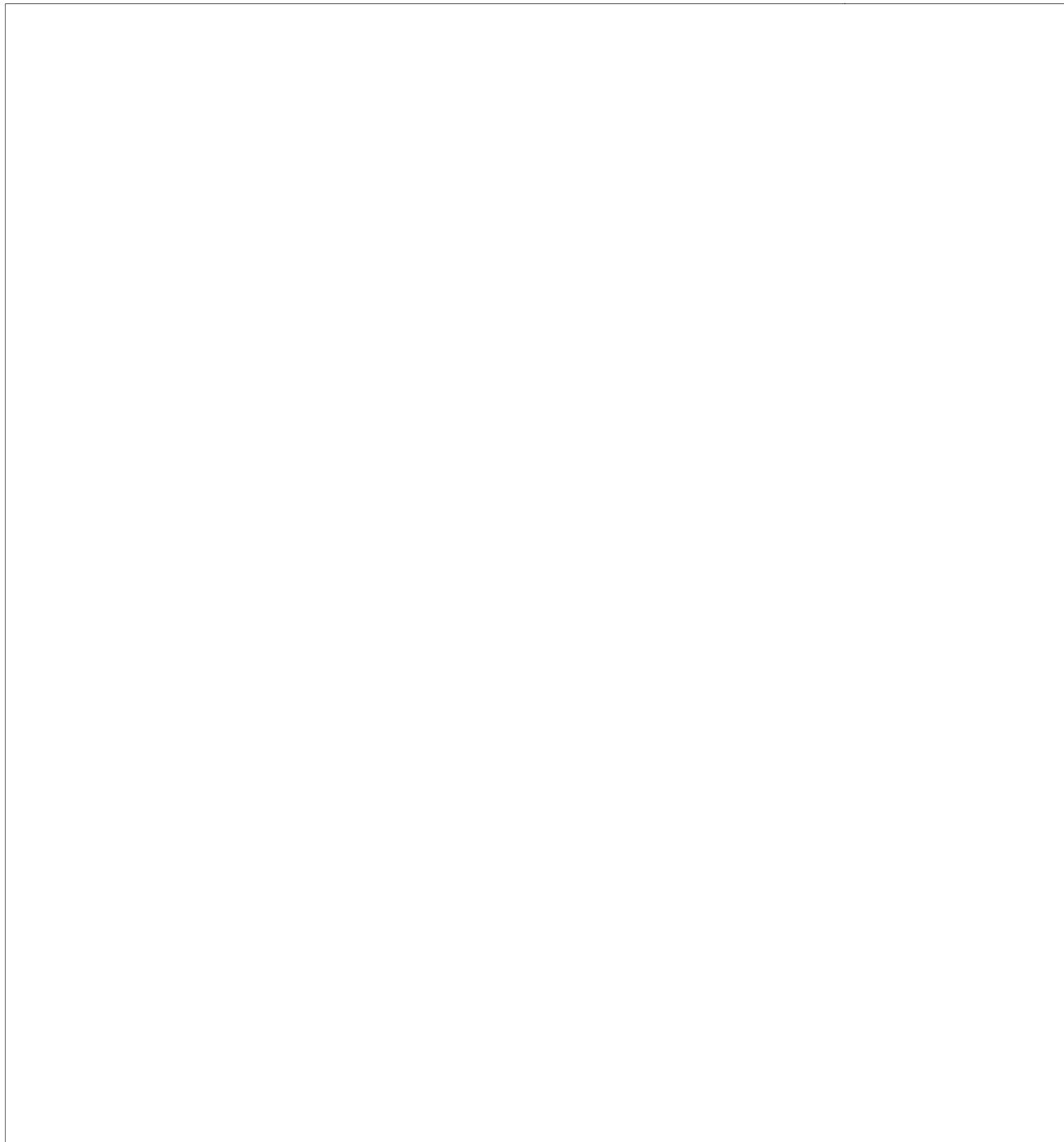


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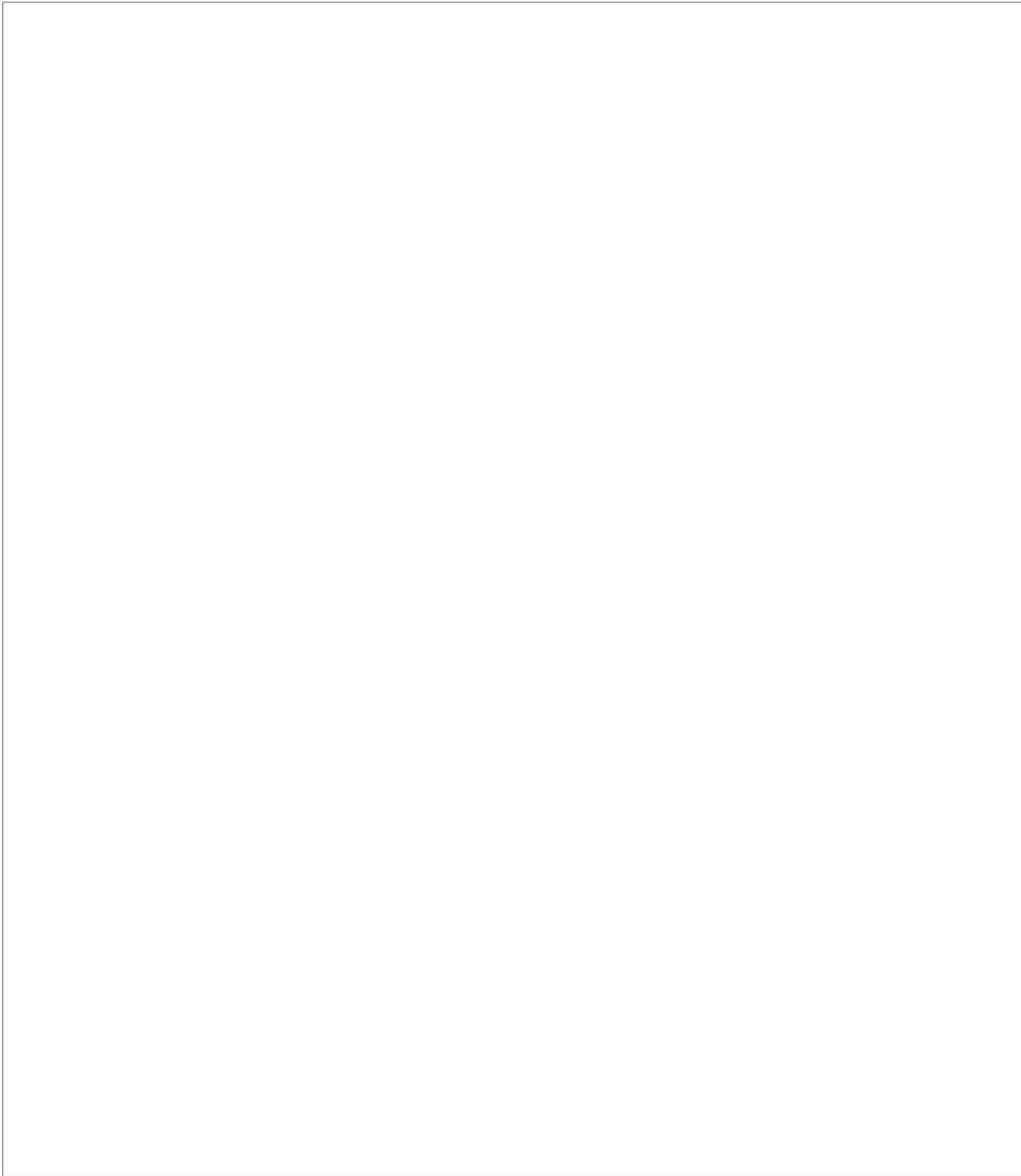


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The FARC Rounds Out Terrorist Arsenal with Improvised Explosive Devices

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) continues to employ improvised explosive devices (IEDs) against a variety of targets as part of its terrorist and insurgent activities. The FARC appears to have access to a ready supply of explosives and the expertise necessary to construct several types of IEDs. Although Colombian Army (COLAR) and National Police (CNP) personnel are the primary targets for FARC bombings, political candidates, the electric power infrastructure, and the public transportation system also have been hit. In addition, the FARC has engaged in low-level bombings of US commercial facilities, including the partially US-owned Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline. The terrorist threat to US interests from the FARC could increase in the coming months if the group believes that US support to Colombian counterdrug operations is having a serious impact on its narcotics-related revenues and insurgent operations.

Easy Acquisition of Explosives

The FARC appears to have several sources of supply for explosives, although the group typically steals them from companies engaged in commercial mining activity throughout the country. For example, on 1 April FARC guerrillas stole 2,600 kilograms of dynamite from a construction company, and on 4 May the group stole another 60 boxes of dynamite from a cement company in north-central Colombia.

- FARC operatives also maintain a robust smuggling network by which explosives and related materials are brought into Colombia from Peru and Ecuador.

The FARC regularly steals TNT, pentolite, ammonium nitrate, black powder, and Indugel. Indugel is composed of sodium nitrate, ammonium-nitrate fuel oil, aluminum, water and a trace of metal or metal salt. The ammonium nitrate is used to manufacture homemade explosives such as ammonium-nitrate fuel oil or ANFO.

Various Improvised Explosive Devices Used

The FARC has the expertise to produce a variety of improvised explosive devices (IED). Its most frequently used IED is an antipersonnel mine that is similar in design—although not as effective—to the US-made M18 antipersonnel mine (a claymore mine with an explosive weight of 1.1 lbs.) The FARC constructs its mines using up to six kilograms of homemade explosives, referred to as "R1." Depending on the quality of the explosive, a device this large conceivably can destroy vehicles that lack armor plating and bullet-resistant glass up to a distance of 3-5 meters, and cause lethal injury to unprotected personnel in excess of 17 meters.

Other IEDs used by the FARC include pipe bombs which are constructed out of standard PVC pipe, vehicle bombs, and the occasional "burrobombs," an animal laden with explosives that is released and remotely detonated as it nears the target. Although car bombs do not seem to be a preferred FARC method of attack, they are used on occasion for attacks in urban areas.

FARC Disposition



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Multiple Initiating Systems and Materiel Employed

FARC's homemade mines are either command detonated or detonated by means of a tripwire/pressure-release switch. Placement of these mines is done with tactical forethought to inflict as many causalities as possible against COLAR and CNP patrols operating in the various provinces of Colombia.

FARC bombers also are known to use IED triggers assembled from commercial type garage door openers and commercial timing devices used in mining or quarry blasting.

US Presence Vulnerable

The FARC has demonstrated the ability to employ IEDs against unguarded or lightly guarded US businesses and facilities where US citizens or officials are present. Although the FARC has been reported as responsible for directing small arms fire against US military-supported aircraft, we have no information to indicate they are planning a near-term bombing against US military forces or facilities in Colombia. Nonetheless, the FARC could bring its IED capabilities to bear against a wide array of US targets should the group opt to pursue aggressive anti-US terrorist operations

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The Terrorism Diary for August and September

Below is a compendium of August and September dates of known or conceivable significance to terrorist around the world. Inclusion of a date or event does not suggest that we anticipate a commemorative terrorist event.

2 August 1990 *Iraq/Kuwait.* Iraq invades Kuwait.

6 August 1825 *Bolivia.* Independence Day.

6 August 1966 *United Arab Emirates.* Accession Day of Shaykh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nayhan, Emir of Abu Dhabi.

11 August 1952 *Jordan.* Accession Day for King Hussein.

12 August 1689 *Northern Ireland.* Protestant commemorative marches mark day apprentice boys locked gates of Derry against James II's forces.

13 August 1984 *Morocco/Libya.* Union established.

14 August 1947 *Pakistan.* Independence Day.

15 August 1947 *India.* Independence Day.

15 August 1964 *Colombia.* Pro-Castro guerrilla movement the National Liberation Army (ELN) begins armed struggle.

15 August 1971 *Bahrain.* Independence Day.

20 August 1953 *Morocco.* King's and People's Revolution.

31 August 1978 *Libya/Shia World.* Lebanese Shia cleric Imam Musa Sadr disappears in Libya.

1 September 1939 *West Germany, Europe.* Antiwar Day (anniversary of Nazi invasion of Poland).

1 September 1969 *Libya.* Coup overthrows monarchy.

September 1970 *Palestinians.* The Jordanian Army drives Palestinian guerrillas out of the country because of their attacks against Israel from Jordanian soil; in response, Fatah establishes the Black September Organization, best known for its attack on Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics.

3 September 1971 *Qatar.* Independence Day.

3 September 1982 *Peru.* Death of Sendero Luminoso (SL) leader Edith Lagos.

4 September 1980 *Iran, Iraq.* Iraq charges Iran starts war.

8 September 1982 *India.* Death of Shaykh Mohammad Abdullah, the "Lion of Kashmir."

10 September 1922 *Turkey.* Founding of Turkish Communist Party.

14 September 1982 *Lebanon.* Assassination of Phalangist leader and Lebanese President-elect Bashir Gemayel.

15 September 1982 *Lebanon.* Israeli invasion of Muslim West Beirut.

17 September 1978 *United States, Israel, Egypt.* Signing of Camp David accords.

17 September 1982 *Lebanon.* Massacre in Shatila and Sabra refugee camps (17 September Organization takes its name from this event).

21 September 1989 *Saudi Arabia.* Execution of 16 Kuwaiti shias for hajj bombings that sparked anti-Saudi retaliatory attacks.

23 September 1932 *Saudi Arabia.* Unification of the kingdom.

23 September 1964 *Saudi Arabia.* National Day.

25 September 1984 *Egypt, Jordan.* Resumption of diplomatic relations.

25 September 1997 *Jordan, Israel.* Assassination attempt on HAMAS political bureau chief Khalid Mish'al

27 September *Spain.* Basque National Party Day.

28 September 1970 *Egypt.* Death of Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir.



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Chronology of International Terrorism—April-June 1998

The following incidents meet the criteria for the Intelligence Community's Incident Review Panel since publication of the previous issue of the Terrorism Review. These incidents are the basis for the State Department's Patterns of Global Terrorism, published annually as the US Government's official record of international terrorism.



Asia

18 April

India: Armed militants attacked a village in Udhampur district, Kashmir, killing 29 persons. The massacre was claimed by the Lashkar-I-Toiba, the militant wing of the fundamentalist Muslim group Markaj Dakhsaval Irsahd, headquartered in Murreedke, Pakistan. [redacted]

1 May

India: A bomb exploded under a crowded bus in Shupiyan, injuring six persons. Pakistani-backed Kashmiri militants are suspected. [redacted]

4 May

India: Suspected Pakistani-backed militants killed four members of a village defense committee near Manchar, east of Jammu. The militants attacked again as the villagers were returning home from cremating the victims, killing four more persons and one police officer. [redacted]

5 May

India: Suspected Pakistani-backed militants killed four persons in their home in Surankote, north of Jammu. [redacted]

6 May

India: Suspected Pakistani-backed militants killed five family members during a funeral procession outside the town of Punch, Kashmir. [redacted]

16 May

India: In Binola Chuora village, Kashmir, suspected Pakistani-backed militants killed at least seven persons. All the victims were Muslims and former militants who had become police informants or members of village defense groups opposed to the militants. [redacted]

23 May

India: A provincial legislator, his driver, a bodyguard, and three others were injured seriously when a bomb detonated on the outskirts of Srinagar. Their armored car was completely destroyed. Pakistani-supported Muslim militants are suspected. [redacted]

1 June

India: Muslim rebels supported by Pakistan are probably responsible for two bombings in Jammu. One bomb exploded at a busy market in the heart of Jammu, killing one child, injuring 19 other persons, and damaging at least 10 shops. The

second bomb exploded at an army base, killing two civilians and damaging the army's intelligence wing. [redacted]

7 June

Pakistan: A bomb ripped through an 18-car passenger train en route from Karachi to Peshawar, killing 23 persons, wounding at least 32 others, and destroying one carriage. The explosive device used in the attack was more sophisticated than those used to date in local and ethnic incidents. Pakistan blames India's external intelligence service, the Research and Analysis Wing, for the bombing, but it denies the accusation. [redacted]

Europe

16 May

Greece: Arsonists of Conscience members ignited an incendiary device under a vehicle belonging to the Turkish Consulate in Athens, causing extensive damage. [redacted]

16 May

Greece: Members of the Arsonists of Conscience firebombed a Libyan Embassy vehicle in Athens, causing extensive damage. [redacted]

19 May

Ireland: Authorities defused a parcel bomb mailed to the Dublin tourism office from Belfast, Northern Ireland. Loyalist paramilitary groups opposed to the Northern Ireland peace agreement may be responsible. [redacted]

20 May

Ireland: Authorities defused a letterbomb mailed to a tourist board office in Sligo from Belfast, Northern Ireland. Loyalist paramilitary groups opposed to the Northern Ireland peace agreement may be responsible. [redacted]

21 May

Greece: A bomb exploded outside a Barclays bank office in the Athens suburb of Kifisia, causing extensive damage. The Arsonists of Conscience may be responsible. [redacted]

31 May

Greece: A bomb exploded under a French Embassy vehicle in the Athens suburb of Papagou, causing extensive damage. The Arsonists of Conscience claimed responsibility. [redacted]

3 June

Turkey: Kurdistan Workers' Party militants kidnapped a German tourist and a Turkish truck driver at a roadblock in Karakose. The German tourist was found unharmed the next morning near the kidnapping site, but the truck driver is still missing. [redacted]

Latin America



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16 May

Colombia: Six heavily armed men kidnapped an Italian engineer, who was overseeing the construction of a tunnel, near Medellin. [redacted]

27 May

Colombia: Twenty National Liberation Army (ELN) rebels bombed the offices of a subsidiary of the US fruit company Dole in Santa Marta. The guerrillas over-powered the guards, gagged the employees, and destroyed files before detonating four bombs, partially destroying the headquarters. After painting graffiti accusing the company owners of assisting paramilitary groups in the region, the rebels opened fire on police as they escaped. [redacted]

28 May

Colombia: ELN rebels bombed the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline in Auaquita municipality, causing a fire and an oil spill into a river stream. [redacted]

4 June

Colombia: Unidentified rebels bombed the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline, spilling 9,600 barrels of crude oil. [redacted]

Middle East

29 April

Israel: An unidentified assailant stabbed a Jordanian tourist in Jerusalem's Mea Sharim neighborhood. Authorities describe the suspect as a "serial stabber" who preys on Arabs for nationalistic reasons in this Orthodox quarter. [redacted]

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Summary of Indigenous Terrorism—June 1998

The incidents and situations listed below are not a detailed accounting of all domestic terrorist incidents, but rather provide an overview of selected indigenous terrorism worldwide.

Africa

Uganda

On 8 June in Fort Portal, Kabarole, approximately 80 uniformed rebels from the *Alliance of Democratic Forces* overpowered government soldiers guarding the Kicwamba Technical School and ordered male students to leave their dormitories. When they refused, the rebels set the building on fire, burning to death at least 40 students. Another 40 were killed in crossfire between soldiers and the terrorists. Sixty other students are missing and feared abducted.

On 22 June *Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)* terrorists entered the dormitory at the St. Charles Lwanga College in Kalongo and abducted 40 female students. Two of the victims later escaped. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) condemned the abduction, stating that the *LRA* has abducted over 8,000 children.

Asia

India

On 2 June in the northeastern state of Assam, *Bodo Liberation Tiger Force* militants bombed several vital roads and rail bridges in the Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon and Nalbari districts, causing major damage and cutting the region off from the rest of the country.

On 10 June in Andhra Pradesh, local press blamed the outlawed *People's War Group* for a landmine explosion that killed 10 police officers and two other persons.

Japan

Two explosions at a bus depot in Matsudo, Chiba Prefecture on 2 June destroyed two buses and damaged another. The buses belonged to Keisei Electric Railway and the Narita Airport Transport Service. *Chukaku-Ha* claimed responsibility for the explosions.

Pakistan

A car bomb exploded near Karachi's National Stadium on 17 June, injuring three persons and damaging adjacent buildings. A second car bomb exploded near the offices of the Pakistan Navy on the same day.

Two bombs hidden in motorcycles exploded within 30 minutes of each other on 18 June, injuring 10 persons. The first bomb detonated outside the Karachi Stock Exchange, injuring five persons. The second bomb went off near a government office building and injured five persons.

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Europe

Spain

A bomb planted on a motorcycle in Renteria exploded on 25 June, killing the mayor and injuring his body guard. Authorities suspect the *Basque Fatherland and Liberty* organization.

Turkey

A *Kurdistan Workers' Party* member threw a handgrenade into an Istanbul café on 3 June, injuring six persons. A second bomb exploded nearby as the injured were being removed.

A bomb hidden in a garbage can exploded inside a Istanbul brothel on 16 June, injuring 12 persons. Unconfirmed reports state that the *Greater Eastern Islamic Raiders-Front* claimed responsibility for the attack.

Latin America

Colombia

National Liberation Army (ELN) rebels kidnapped 15 young women in El Rio on 14 June. The women carry out civic and health activities to support the Colombian military but do not wear uniforms.

Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels blew up a toll booth and burned two vehicles in Sucre department on 18 June.

FARC rebels blew up a section of railroad tracks in Fundacion on 20 June.

On 20 June in Jamundi, *ELN* guerrillas attacked and destroyed municipal offices, killing two police officers and wounding one civilian. The *ELN* said the raid was carried out to obstruct local plans to build a new bus depot.

Unidentified rebels bombed the Trans-Andean oil pipeline in Orito municipality on 21 June.

FARC rebels burned 3,010 election ballots in Bilbao and La Ilusion on 21 June.

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Middle East

Algeria

A bomb exploded under a train in Ain Tourki on 11 June, killing 12 passengers and wounding 21 others. *The Armed Islamic Group (GIA)* probably is responsible. [redacted]

Suspected *GIA* militants killed eight travelers at a roadblock in Mascara on 14 June. [redacted]

On 15 June militants killed four guards at a water distribution station in Mouair. [redacted]

An armed group killed three police officers at a cafe in Mokasseb on 20 June. [redacted]
[redacted]

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